



CoHabitat Network



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





CoHabitat is a joint initiative by grassroots federations, umbrella and non-profit organisations, and academic institutions working in the field of community-led housing.

We strive to strengthen communities in their role as urban designers, developers and builders, and more broadly, in their role as active citizens of their cities. We believe in their collective capacity to develop sustainable solutions to today's urban challenges related to climate change and social transformations through solidarity and resilience.

As an open and project-driven collaboration, we work together **to demonstrate the successes and potential of community-led housing**, and make it more widespread and attainable by **co-producing** knowledge and information through experience exchanges, peer-to-peer learning and community-managed data production; **connecting** people across countries, organisations and regions; **co-designing** affordable and self-managed financial tools.

**Want to know more about
CoHabitat's work and
community-led housing
around the world?**

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hand-picked articles.**

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ACRONYMS

ABZ	Allgemeine Baugenossenschaft Zürich
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
CHI	Co-operative Housing International
CLH	Community-led housing
ETHZ	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ISHF	International Social Housing Festival
NASCO	North American Students of Cooperation
SDI	Slum Dwellers International
WBG	Wohnbaugenossenschaften Schweiz
WUF	World Urban Forum



**The future is
community-led!**



community-led housing is a process by
residents organise collectively to
from the bottom up.
ance, build, manage

Meet
us here

HABITAT
VILLAGE

Meet
them here

world
habitat
village

Annual Meeting

WORLD
URBAN
FORUM
ELEVENTH SESSION



KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022

Fighting for the Right to Housing and Right to the City through collective work at *Habitat Village* - WUF 11

Coordinated by urbaMonde in collaboration with the CoHabitat Network partners

During the first semester of 2022, various partners of the CoHabitat Network collaborated to conceptualise and facilitate an exhibition stand during the World Urban Forum 11, held in Katowice, Poland, from the 26th to 30th of June 2022.

This space called *Habitat Village* was the concretisation of a collective work of **urbaMonde, World Habitat, Habitat International Coalition, Global Platform for the Right to the City, MOBA Housing SCE, Misereor, IIED, Development Planning Unit of the University College London, Catalytic Communities, ACHR, SDI and urbaSEN**. Through this joint work, Habitat Village aimed at materialising a place for the reunion of all CoHabitat organisations, especially after the previous two years in which the pandemic restrictions caused by the COVID-19 health crisis affected and limited the opportunity for meetings and encounters.

With an engaging programme, partners have held a variety of **events, from presentations, roundtables, documentary screenings to exhibitions and celebrations**. The exchanges put forward the work done by grassroots organisations and communities in advancing housing and land rights and building cities from the bottom-up, allowing for important discussions around strategies and the necessary steps in scaling up those initiatives to reach institutional and governmental support.

Moreover, partners reflected on their own roles in advancing the right to adequate housing in a way that is more inclusive and responsive to local needs.

The success of *Habitat Village* has not only strengthened our ties as a Network, but **has encouraged further collaborations among CoHabitat partners**. Members of the Network had the chance to discover each others' local projects and overall strategy - which aims at fostering future partnerships, further the exchange of practices and systematisation of CLH initiatives.

More than that, the richness of the exchanges and encounters held at *Habitat Village* proved the importance of joint work and collaborations at the centre of the CoHabitat Network.

Also, through networking and informal conversations, **CoHabitat partners opened the door to those interested in exchanging and reflecting more about community-led housing** and the right to adequate housing, from the exchange of contacts, information and presentations that led to new reflections and important points of view to consider in the future.

- **Read reflections and conclusions by [HIC](#), [SDI](#) and [GPR2C](#)**
- **Watch the after movie**





Read the full Habitat Village report

[Read here](#)



Events



Collaborative Housing Day - ISHF 22, Finland

Coordinated by urbaMonde in collaboration with World Habitat & CHI

On urbaMonde's initiative and with the support of World Habitat and CHI, **the CoHabitat Network organised the Collaborative Housing Day** at the International Social Housing Festival in Helsinki (June 14-17). This event hosted a day-long programme combining discussions, roundtables, workshops and networking.

More than 100 people from 30 countries participated in this day: local and regional authorities, social housing developers, social movements, researchers, professionals and companies, foundations, etc. This special day strengthened the promotion of collaborative housing in Europe as a key element in ensuring the right to adequate housing and the right to the city, while integrating people at the centre of the processes that shape their housing and their city.

In the margins of this event, **a network dinner for 130 people and visits to cohousing projects were organised** by urbaMonde with the support of Salla Korpela, a community-led housing activist in Helsinki.



► [Watch the after movie](#)

Cooperative Housing Symposium - Switzerland

Coordinated by CHI in collaboration with urbaMonde



This international event aiming at **growing the cooperative movement** was held on September 22-25 in Zurich and Geneva, co-organised by Cooperative Housing International (CHI), WBG and ABZ, and brought together several Network partners: urbaMonde, ACHR/Lumanti NGO (Nepal), Sostre Civic (Spain) and MOBA (CEE). Amongst the other actors present during the two days of exchanges and visits were also ETHZ, Housing Europe, the Confederation of Co-operative Housing UK and representatives of the City of Zurich.

On the same occasion, urbaMonde coordinated jointly with CHI, Student Coop Homes (UK), Studentendorf (Germany), La Ciguë (Switzerland) and NASCO (USA) a **side-event** between Zurich and Geneva on the topic of cooperative student housing, entitled “European Student Co-op Convening : Developing a United Front”.

These two days of exchanges allowed around 30 representatives of student housing cooperatives and other actors from the UK, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, USA and Japan to share experiences, good practices and challenges, as well as to visit concrete examples of community-led housing solutions for students in Geneva and Zurich.

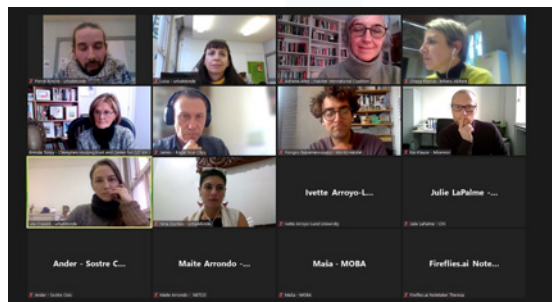
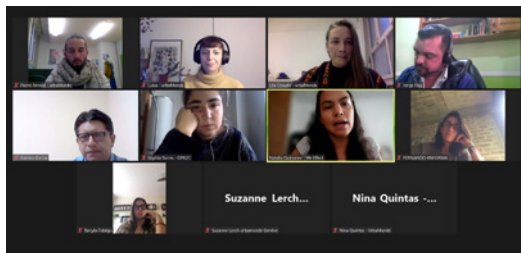
► [Read the review](#)

In the post-pandemic context, the organisation of these in-person meetings was the key activity of the year 2022 for the CoHabitat Network.

The partners were present and their feedback was very positive. The exchange spaces gave rise to quality discussions, involving a variety of profiles and housing actors, while highlighting inspiring community-led initiatives, both in their financial set-up, their access to land and their architectural and social project.

New actors of community-led housing have strengthened their links with the CoHabitat Network, especially at the European level: Sostre Civic, Legacoop Abitanti, Fondazione Housing Sociale (FHS), Future Urban Legacy Lab (FULL), Student Coop Homes UK, Studentendorf Berlin.

In mid-December, two meetings were held online, in Spanish and in English, to **collectively review the activities carried out during the year 2022**, and to share important activities to come in 2023.



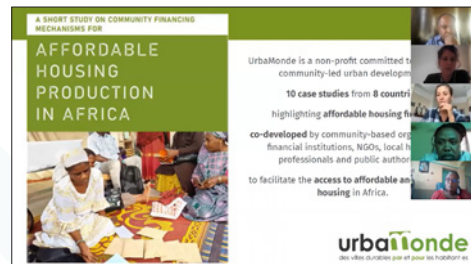
Webinars

« Community-based finance for affordable housing in Africa »

Coordinated by urbaMonde, Centre for Affordable Housing Finance Africa & African Union for Housing Finance

This webinar series highlighted the dedication and importance of communities to mobilise finance and develop mechanisms for affordable housing production in different African countries: Kenya (Akiba Mashinani Trust), Uganda (Nyumba Smart Loans), South Africa (Development Action Group), Senegal (urbaSEN), Mozambique (Casa REAL) and Zimbabwe (Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless Trust). This webinar was linked to the study "Community-based finance for affordable housing production", published in 2021.

► [Watch online](#)



« Les fonds rotatifs pour le financement de la production sociale de l'habitat »

Coordinated by urbaMonde

In this webinar, our two guests Multipro (Nicaragua) and urbaSEN (Senegal), two partners of urbaMonde, shared how their revolving fund has enabled the construction of community-led housing in their respective regions.

► [Watch online](#)



Documentation

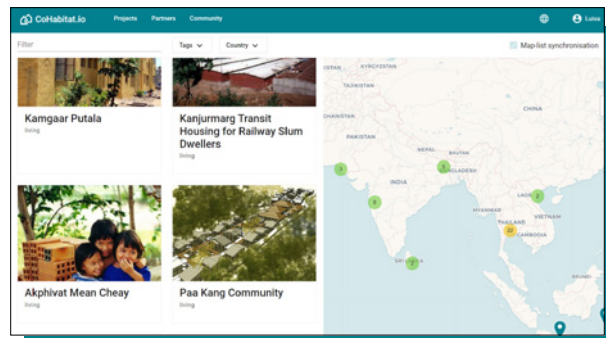
UCLG Gold Report VI



The 6th UCLG GOLD report was published in October 2022. Partners of the CoHabitat Network (World Habitat, CHI, HIC, ACHR, SDI, urbaMonde) have made a strong contribution to the Cases Repository, with nearly twenty articles written in the 6 chapters of this publication (*«Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality: Addressing inequalities through local transformation strategies»*), aiming to highlight good practices of local and regional governments.

► [Gold Report VI official website](#)

CoHabitat.io collaborative database



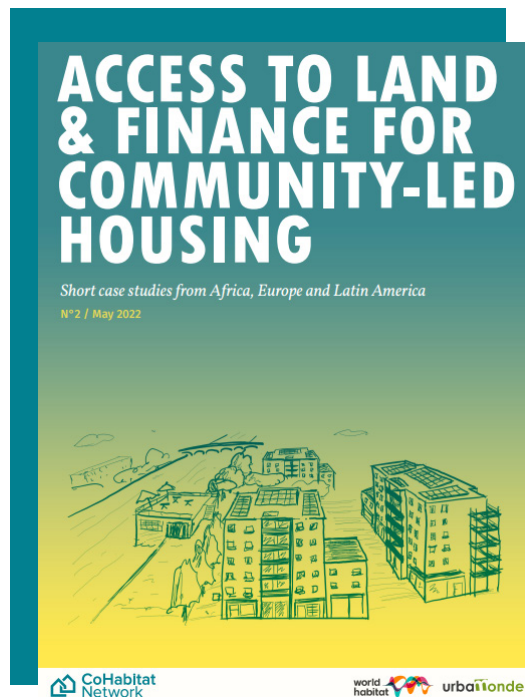
Partners have continued to **document collaborative housing projects** to the database [cohabitat.io](#), such as [ACHR](#), which has put 60 Asian projects online since 2018.

You can contact us for any queries or proposals regarding this collaborative tool.

► [Browse projects](#)

Study: Access to Land & Finance for CLH, part II

Coordinated by urbaMonde and World Habitat



By the initiative of World Habitat and urbaMonde, the Co-Habitat Network published on May 22, a second case-study review on access to land & finance for community-led housing projects.

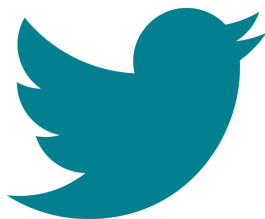
This short publication reviews **five winning projects of the CLH regional awards** by focusing on how they managed **to secure land and accessed funding** to plan and build, refurbish or improve, their living environment.

 [Download the full study](#)

Communications

In terms of communication, **8 newsletters, including a special one for the Urban October initiative, and 26 blogs of CLH projects documented on cohabitat.io were shared online.** In addition, news about our partners and their activities were regularly published on our official website.

This year also saw the arrival of the CoHabitat Network on Twitter.



► [Follow us here](#)

Reflections continue within the CoHabitat Network to identify the needs and the best methods of action to influence public policies. By facilitating the meeting and participation of partners in events such as those described above, the Network enables them to bring their voice to strategic spaces.



co-habitat.net

Bringing together community-led housing organisations & allies from across the world, who work to secure housing through collective, non-speculative, people-led solutions.



TU Delft



GROUND
SOLUTIONS
NETWORK
strong communities
from the ground up



urbanTonde



With the support of



Global Platform for the Right to the City
Plateforme Globale pour le Droit à la Ville
Global Platform for the Right to the City

